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(54) **Tibial tray assembly**

(57) A tibial tray assembly comprises a platform having an upper surface configured to receive a tibial insert and a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface

of the platform. A stem extension is coupled to an end of the stem, the stem extension being electrically insulated from the stem. A wireless communication device transmits data using the stem extension as an antenna.

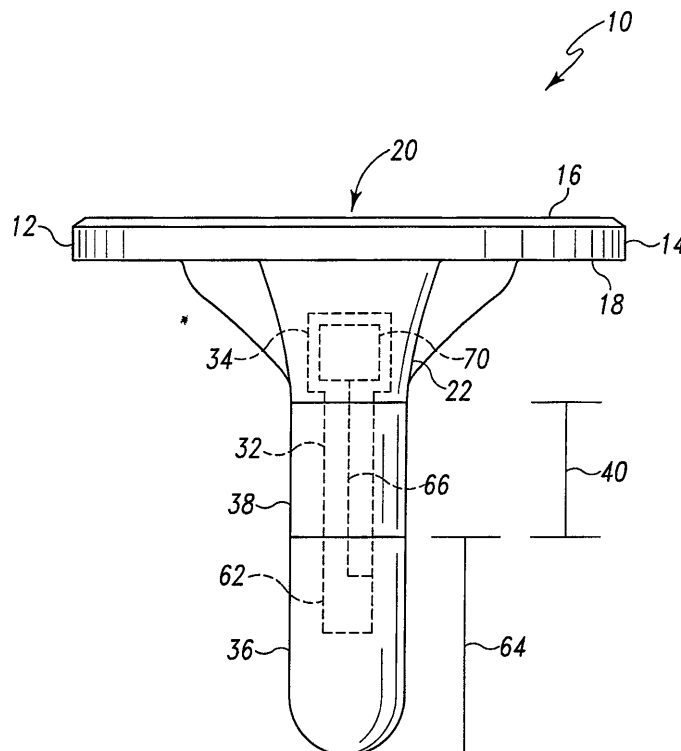


Fig. 3

Description

[0001] The present invention relates generally to orthopaedic prosthesis, and particularly, to tibial tray assemblies including wireless communication devices.

[0002] Joint arthroplasty is a well-known surgical procedure by which a diseased and/or damaged natural joint is replaced by a prosthetic joint. A typical orthopaedic prosthesis for the knee includes a tibial tray, a femoral component, and a polymer insert or bearing positioned between the tibial tray and the femoral component. The tibial tray may include a stem or post that is implanted into the surgically prepared proximal end of the tibia to provide stability. In some applications, a stem extension may be coupled to the stem of the tibial tray to increase the overall length of the stem.

[0003] According to one aspect, a tibial tray assembly may include a platform and a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the platform. The platform may include an upper surface configured to receive a tibial insert. The tibial tray assembly may also include a stem extension which can be coupled to an end of the stem. The stem extension may be electrically insulated from the stem. For example, the tibial tray assembly may include an electrical insulator which can be coupled to the stem and the stem extension. The electrical insulator may be configured to be positioned between the stem and the stem extension when coupled thereto. The electrical insulator may be formed from a polyethylene material. The stem and the stem extension may be formed from the same material. The stem extension may be tuned to a quarter-wavelength of 2,450 MHz. For example, the stem extension may have a length of about 30 mm (1.2 inch).

[0004] The tibial tray assembly may further include a wireless communication device. The wireless communication device may be configured to transmit data using the stem extension as an antenna. The wireless communication device may be configured to transmit the data at a frequency of about 2,450 MHz using the stem extension as an antenna. Additionally or alternatively, the wireless communication device may be configured to transmit the data a distance less than about ten feet at a signal level of about -90 dBm. The wireless communication device may be positioned in an internal cavity of the stem. In some embodiments, the wireless communication device may be configured to transmit the data in response to receipt of an interrogation signal. The wireless communication device may include, for example, a transmitter or transceiver and a sensor coupled to the transmitter. The transmitter/transceiver may be configured to transmit data generated by the sensor.

[0005] According to another aspect, an orthopaedic prosthesis may include a tibial tray, a spacer, a stem extension, and a wireless communication device. The tibial tray may include a platform and a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the platform. The spacer may be arranged for coupling to an end of the stem of the tibial tray. The spacer may be formed from an elec-

trically insulating material. Additionally, the spacer may include a first threaded bore on a first end and a second threaded bore on a second end. The stem extension may be arranged for coupling to the first stem extension. The stem extension may be tuned to a quarter-wavelength of 2,450 MHz. For example, the stem extension may have a length of about 30 mm (1.2 inch). The wireless communication device may be configured to transmit data using the stem extension as an antenna. For example, the wireless communication device may be configured to transmit the data at a frequency of about 2,450 MHz using the stem extension as an antenna.

[0006] Additionally or alternatively, the wireless communication device may be configured to transmit the data a distance less than about ten feet at a signal level of about -90dBm. In some embodiments, the wireless communication device may be configured to transmit the data in response to receipt of an interrogation signal. The wireless communication device may include, for example, a transmitter or transceiver and a sensor coupled to the transmitter. The transmitter/transceiver may be configured to transmit data generated by the sensor.

[0007] According to yet another aspect, a tibial tray assembly may include a platform and a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the platform. The platform may include an upper surface configured to receive a tibial insert. The tibial tray assembly may also include a stem extension which can be coupled to an end of the stem. The tibial tray assembly may further include a spacer coupled between the stem and the stem extension. The spacer may electrically insulate the stem extension from the stem. The tibial tray may also include a wireless communication device. The wireless communication device may be positioned in the stem and electrically coupled to the stem extension, the wireless communication device configured to transmit data using the stem extension as an antenna.

[0008] Embodiments of the invention are described below by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of one embodiment of an orthopaedic prosthesis having a wireless communication device;

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of another embodiment of the orthopaedic prosthesis of FIG. 1; FIG. 3 is a side elevation view of the orthopaedic prosthesis of FIG. 1 in an assembled configuration; FIG. 4 is block diagram of one embodiment of a wireless communication device of the orthopaedic prostheses of FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 5 is cross-sectional view of the orthopaedic prosthesis of FIG. 1 secured to a bone of a patient; FIG. 6 is shows an antenna radiation elevation plot of one embodiment of the wireless communication device of the orthopaedic implant of FIG. 1; and FIG. 7 is another antenna radiation three-dimensional plot of one embodiment of the wireless communi-

cation device of the orthopaedic implant of FIG. 1.

[0009] Referring to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows a tibial tray assembly 10 which includes a tibial tray 12 having a platform 14. The platform 14 includes an upper surface 16 and a bottom surface 18. The upper surface 16 of the platform 14 is configured to receive a tibial bearing or insert (not shown). In the illustrated embodiment, the tibial tray 12 is configured for use with a mobile tibial bearing. As such, the tibial tray 12 includes an aperture 20 defined in the upper surface 16 of the platform 14. The aperture 20 is configured to receive a stem of the mobile tibial bearing. In use, the tibial bearing may be configured to rotate about an axis defined by the stem of the bearing or otherwise rotate, slide, or move in one or more directions. However, in other embodiments, the tibial tray 12 may be configured for use with or be otherwise usable with a fixed tibial bearing. In such embodiments, the tibial tray 12 may or may not include the aperture 20. As such, the tibial tray 12 may include additional features in other embodiments such as, for example, a track, slot, or other feature in or on the platform 12 based on the particular application and/or type of tibial bearing to be used. Accordingly, although the tibial tray 12 is illustrated in and described below in regard to use with a mobile tibial bearing, it should be appreciated that the tibial tray 12 may be used with and/or modified for use with a fixed tibial bearing in other embodiments.

[0010] The tibial tray 12 is configured to be coupled to a surgically-prepared surface of the proximal end of a patient's tibia as illustrated in and discussed in more detail below in regard to FIG. 5. The tibial tray 12 includes a stem 22 extending downwardly from the bottom surface 18 of the platform 14. When the tibial tray 12 is coupled to the patient's tibia, the stem 22 is embedded in the patient's tibia to thereby secure the tibial tray 12 to the patient's bone.

[0011] The platform 14 has a generally oval top profile. In some embodiments, may include an inwardly curving wall portion 24 such that the top profile of the platform 14 generally corresponds to the shape of the surgically-prepared surface of the proximal end of the patient's tibia. However, the platform 14 may have other configurations in other embodiments.

[0012] The stem 22 may extend downwardly from the bottom surface 18 of the platform 14 any distance. In some embodiments, the stem 22 includes a threaded stud 26 located at the distal end 28 of the stem 22 as shown in FIG. 1. However, in other embodiments, the stem 22 may include a threaded bore 30 defined in the distal end 28 of the stem 22 as illustrated in FIG. 2. The stem 22 includes an internal passageway 32 (see FIG. 3) having an open end at the distal end 28 of the stem 22. As described in more detail with reference to FIG. 3, the internal passageway 32 is configured to house an antenna wire, which extends out of the stem 22. Additionally, in some embodiments, the stem 22 and/or platform 14 may include an internal chamber 34 (see FIG.

3) defined therein for housing electrical devices such as wireless communication devices.

[0013] The tibial tray assembly 10 also includes a stem extension 36 and an insulative stem spacer or extension 38. The spacer 38 is configured to be coupled to the distal end 28 of the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12. Similarly, the stem extension 36 is configured to be coupled to a distal end 40 of the spacer 38. As shown in FIG. 3, when the tibial tray 12, the spacer 38, and the stem extension 36 are coupled together, the spacer 38 is positioned between the stem extension 36 and the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12. The spacer 38 is formed from an electrically insulative material such as, for example, a polyethylene material. Because the spacer 38 is formed from an insulative material, the spacer 38 forms an electrical insulator between the stem extension 36 and the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12 when the tibial tray assembly 10 is assembled as shown in FIG. 3.

[0014] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 to 4, the spacer 38 has a substantially cylindrical shape and body length 40 of about 12.7 mm (0.5 inch) (see FIG. 3). However, in other embodiments, spacers 38 having different shapes and sizes may be used. That is, the spacer 38 may have any configuration that allows the spacer 38 to be coupled to the stem 22 and the stem extension 36 and provide electrical insulation therebetween. For example, in other embodiments, the spacer 38 may be embodied as an insulative washer, nut, or the like. Additionally, although the spacer 38 is shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 as removably coupleable to the stem extension 36, the spacer 38 may be secured to the stem extension 36 in some embodiments. For example, the spacer 38 may be secured to the stem extension 36 via a suitable adhesive or the like.

[0015] In embodiments in which the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12 includes a threaded stud 26 as illustrated in FIG. 1, the spacer 38 includes a threaded bore 42 defined in a proximal end 44 of the spacer 38. The threaded bore 42 is configured to receive the threaded stud 26 when the spacer 38 is coupled to the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12 (i.e., when the spacer 38 is screwed on to the threaded stud 26). The spacer 38 also includes a threaded bore 46 defined in a distal end 48 of the spacer 38. In such embodiments, the threaded bore 42 is configured to receive a threaded stud 50 defined on a proximal end 52 of the stem extension 36. Additionally, the spacer 38 includes an internal passageway 54 (see, e.g., FIG. 3) having open ends at each end 44, 48 of the spacer. Again, as described in more detail below with reference to FIG. 3, the internal passageway 54 is configured to house an antenna wire, which extends through the spacer 38.

[0016] Conversely, in embodiments wherein the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12 includes a threaded bore 30 as illustrated in FIG. 2, the spacer 38 includes a threaded stud 56 defined on the proximal end 44 of the spacer 38. The threaded stud 56 is configured to be received by the threaded bore 30 when the spacer 38 is coupled to the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12 (i.e., when the spacer 38 is

screwed into the threaded bore 30). The spacer 38 also includes a threaded stud 58 defined on the distal end 48 of the spacer 38. In such embodiments, the threaded stud 58 is configured to be received by a threaded bore 60 defined in the proximal end 52 of the stem extension 36.

[0017] As such, it should be appreciated that the stem 22, the spacer 38, and the stem extension 36 may have any one of a number of configurations to facilitate the coupling therebetween. Although in the embodiments which are shown in the drawings, the stem 22 and extensions 36, 38 are configured to be coupled together via threaded bores and studs, the stem 22 and extensions 36, 38 may be coupled together using other devices and/or means in other embodiments. For example, in some embodiments, the stem 22, the spacer 38, and/or the stem extension 36 may include one or more tapered joints configured to be coupled together to thereby secure the stem 22 and the extensions 36, 38 together. Additionally, in other embodiments, the stem 22 and extensions 36, 38 may be configured to be coupled together via use of one of a number of securing devices such as, for example, an adhesive. As such, the stem 22 and extensions 36, 38 may be coupled to each other using any one of a number of methods and/or securing devices such that the spacer 38 is electrically insulated from the stem 22.

[0018] As discussed in more detail below with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4, the stem extension 36 is configured for use as an antenna (e.g., a half-dipole antenna). As such, the stem extension 36 is formed from a metallic material such as, for example, a titanium alloy. In some embodiments, the stem extension 36 is formed from the same material as the tibial tray 12. The stem extension 36 may include an internal passageway 62 for housing the antenna wire 66 in some embodiments as illustrated in FIG. 3. Additionally, to facilitate the use of the stem extension 36 as an antenna, the stem extension 36 may be tuned to a particular frequency and/or wavelength of a particular frequency. To do so, the length 64 of the stem extension 36 may be determined based on the particular frequency. For example, in one particular embodiment, the stem extension 36 is tuned to the quarter-wavelength of 2,450 MHz. That is, the stem extension 36 may have a length 64 tuned to the quarter-wavelength of 2,450 MHz. As such, the stem extension 36 may have a length 64 of about 6 cm (2.4 inch). However, in other embodiments, the stem extension 36 having other lengths may be used to facilitate wireless communication using any one of a number of frequencies. Additionally, although the illustrative stem extension 36 has a substantially cylindrical shape, stem extensions having other shapes and sizes may be used in other applications based on the particular implementation such as age of the patient, transmission frequency used, and the like.

[0019] Referring now to FIG. 3, the tibial tray assembly 10 also includes a wireless communication device 70. In some embodiments, the wireless communication device

70 may be positioned in the internal chamber 34 of the stem 22 of the tibial tray 12 as shown in FIG. 3. However, in other embodiments, the wireless communication device 70 may be positioned in a different location in the tibial tray assembly 10 or otherwise coupled thereto. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless communication device 70 may be positioned in the spacer 38. Additionally, in other embodiments, the wireless communication device may be positioned in or otherwise coupled to the platform 14 of the tibial tray 12.

[0020] The wireless communication device 70 is configured to use the stem extension 36 as an antenna. As such, the wireless communication device 70 is electrically coupled to the stem extension 36 via the antenna wire 66. As illustrated in FIG. 3, the antenna wire 66 extends from the wireless communication device 70, through the internal passageway 32 of the spacer 38, and is electrically coupled to the stem extension 36 (e.g., in the internal passageway 62 of the stem extension 36). The antenna wire 66 may be embodied as any type of electrically shielded communication wire or link such as number of wires, cables, or the like.

[0021] Referring now to FIG. 4, the wireless communication device 70 includes a transmitter or transceiver circuit 72. The transmitter circuit 72 is electrically coupled to the stem extension 36 via the antenna wire 66. The transmitter circuit 72 is configured to transmit data using the stem extension 36 as an antenna. As such, the transmitter circuit 72 and/or the wireless communication device 70 may include additional circuitry and/or devices to facilitate the transmission of such data. For example, in some embodiments, the wireless communication device 70 may include processing circuitry 74 and a memory device 76. The processing circuitry 74 may be embodied as any type of processing circuitry including, for example, discrete processing circuitry (e.g., a collection of logic devices), general purpose integrated circuit(s), and/or application specific integrated circuit(s) (ASICs). The memory device 76 may be embodied as any type of memory device and may include one or more memory types, such as, random access memory and/or read-only memory. In addition, the wireless communication device 70 may include other devices and circuitry typically found in a wireless communication circuit for performing the functions described herein such as, for example, a power source circuit, a crystal, a timing circuit, and the like.

[0022] In those embodiments including the processing circuitry 74 and the memory device 76, the processing circuitry 74 is electrically coupled to the transmitter 72 via a communication link 78 and to the memory device 76 via a communication link 80. The communication links 78, 80 may be embodied as any type of communication links capable of facilitating electrical communication between the processing circuitry 74, the memory device 76, and the transmitter 72. For example, the communication links 78, 80 may be embodied as any number of wires, cables, printed circuit board traces, vias, and/or the like.

[0023] Additionally, in some embodiments, the wire-

less communication device 70 may include a number of sensors 82. The sensors 82 may be embodied as any type of sensors including, for example, temperature sensors, pressure sensors, load sensors, strain sensors, and/or the like. The sensors 82 may be housed in the tibial tray assembly 10, coupled to the assembly 10 (e.g., coupled to the platform 14 of the tibial tray 12), or remote therefrom. The sensors 82 are electrically coupled to the processing circuitry 74 via a number of communication links 84. The communication links 84 may be embodied as any type of communication links capable of facilitating electrical communication between the processing circuitry 74 and the sensors 82. For example, as with the communication links 78, 80, the communication links 84 may be embodied as any number of wires, cables, printed circuit board traces, vias, and/or the like.

[0024] In some embodiments, the processing circuitry 74 may be configured to retrieve data from the memory device 76 and transmit the data via use of the transmitter 72 and the stem extension 36. Such data may be embodied as any type of data including, but not limited to, product identification data, patient-related data, and/or the like. Additionally, in embodiments including the sensors 82, the processing circuitry 74 may be configured to receive sensor data from the sensors 82 and transmit the sensor data using the transmitter 72 and the stem extension 36 as an antenna. Additionally or alternatively, the processing circuitry 74 may be configured to store the sensor data in the memory device 76.

[0025] In some embodiments, the wireless communication device 70 is configured to transmit the data (e.g., data retrieved from the memory device 76 or received from the sensors 82) in response to a received interrogation signal. That is, the processing circuitry 74 may be configured to not transmit data unless the interrogation signal has been received. In this way, privacy of the data is increased because the wireless communication device 70 is not continually transmitting data. Additionally, in some embodiments, the wireless communication device 70 and/or the stem extension 36 are configured such that the range of wireless communication is restricted to a defined distance. To do so, the signal power of the wireless communication device 70 and/or the antenna gain of the stem extension 36 may be selected to generate a predetermined range of operation. For example, typical receiver devices have a minimum discernable signal level of about -90dBm. As such, the wireless communication device 70 and/or the stem extension 36 may be configured to generate a signal having a signal level of about -90dBm or less at a predetermined distance from the tibial tray assembly. For example, in one particular embodiment, the wireless communication device 70 and/or the stem extension 36 are configured to generate a signal having a signal level of about -90dBm or less at a distance of about ten feet from the tibial tray assembly. In this way, the privacy of the data is increased because the range of reception of the signal transmitted by the wireless communication device 70 is restricted.

[0026] Referring now to FIG. 5, the tibial tray assembly 10 is configured to be coupled to a surgically-prepared surface 90 of the proximal end 92 of a patient's tibia 94. When the tibial tray assembly 10 is coupled to the patient's tibia 94, the stem 22, spacer 38, and stem extension 36 are embedded in the patient's tibia 94 to thereby secure the tibial tray assembly 10 to the patient's bone. In one embodiment, the tibial tray assembly 10 may be secured to the patient's tibia 94 via use of bone cement 96. The bone cement 96 forms a barrier around the stem extension 36 thereby insulating the stem extension 36 from any conductive tissue or fluids. The spacer 38 also insulates the stem extension 36 from tibial tray 12, which in the presence of electrically conductive tissues and/or fluids may act as a ground plane to the stem extension 36 during transmission.

[0027] Referring now to FIGS. 6 and 7, an antenna radiation elevation plot 100 and an antenna radiation three-dimensional plot 102 are illustrated. The plots 100, 102 were generated based on a software model of the tibial tray assembly 10, which was modelled using a NEC-3 method of moments based software package. The plots 100, 102 illustrate a typical half-dipole antenna pattern with the tibial tray 12 acting as a ground plane. The take-off angle of the signal generated by the tibial tray assembly 10 was approximately 5 degrees elevation, with a maximum signal gain at the elevation of 10.1 dBi. The antenna pattern is consistent in azimuth, and the average gain across elevation is approximately 3dBi. Continuous wave signal transmission was verified using the spacer 38 as an antenna and coupled to an RF signal generator in 360 azimuth and 90 elevation cuts.

Claims

1. A tibial tray assembly comprising:

a platform having an upper surface configured to receive a tibial insert;
a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the platform;
a stem extension coupled to an end of the stem, the stem extension being electrically insulated from the stem; and
a wireless communication device configured to transmit data using the stem extension as an antenna.

2. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, further comprising an electrical insulator coupled to the stem and the stem extension, the electrical insulator being positioned between the stem and the stem extension.

3. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the stem and the stem extension are formed from the same material.

4. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the stem extension is tuned to a quarter-wavelength of 2,450 MHz.
5. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is configured to transmit the data at a frequency of about 2,450 MHz using the stem extension as an antenna. 5
6. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is configured to transmit the data a distance less than about ten feet at a signal level of about -90dBm. 10
7. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is positioned in an internal cavity of the stem. 15
8. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is configured to transmit the data in response to receipt of an interrogation signal. 20
9. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device comprises a transmitter and a sensor coupled to the transmitter, the transmitter being configured to transmit data generated by the sensor. 25
10. The tibial tray assembly of claim 1, further comprising an antenna wire electrically coupled to the wireless communication device and the stem extension. 30
11. An orthopaedic prosthesis comprising: 35
 - a tibial tray having a platform and a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the platform;
 - a spacer which can be coupled to an end of the stem of the tibial tray, the spacer being formed from an electrically insulating material; 40
 - a stem extension which can be coupled to the spacer; and
 - a wireless communication device electrically coupled to the stem extension via an antenna wire and configured to transmit data using the stem extension as an antenna. 45
12. A tibial tray assembly comprising: 50
 - a platform having an upper surface configured to receive a tibial insert;
 - a stem extending downwardly from a bottom surface of the platform;
 - a stem extension coupled to an end of the stem; 55
 - an spacer coupled between the stem and the stem extension, the spacer electrically insulating the stem extension from the stem; and

a wireless communication device positioned in the stem and electrically coupled to the stem extension, the wireless communication device configured to transmit data using the stem extension as an antenna.

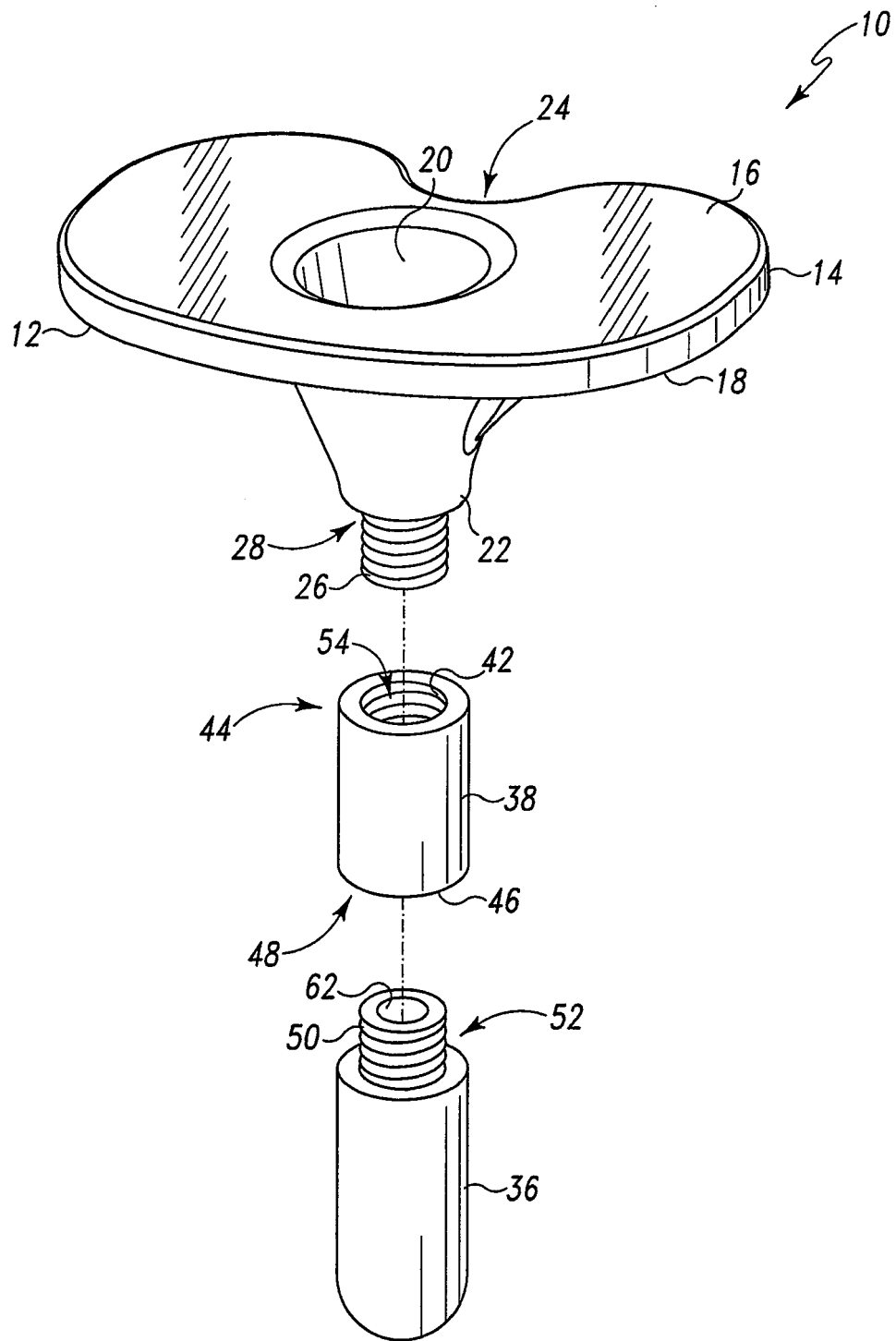


Fig. 1

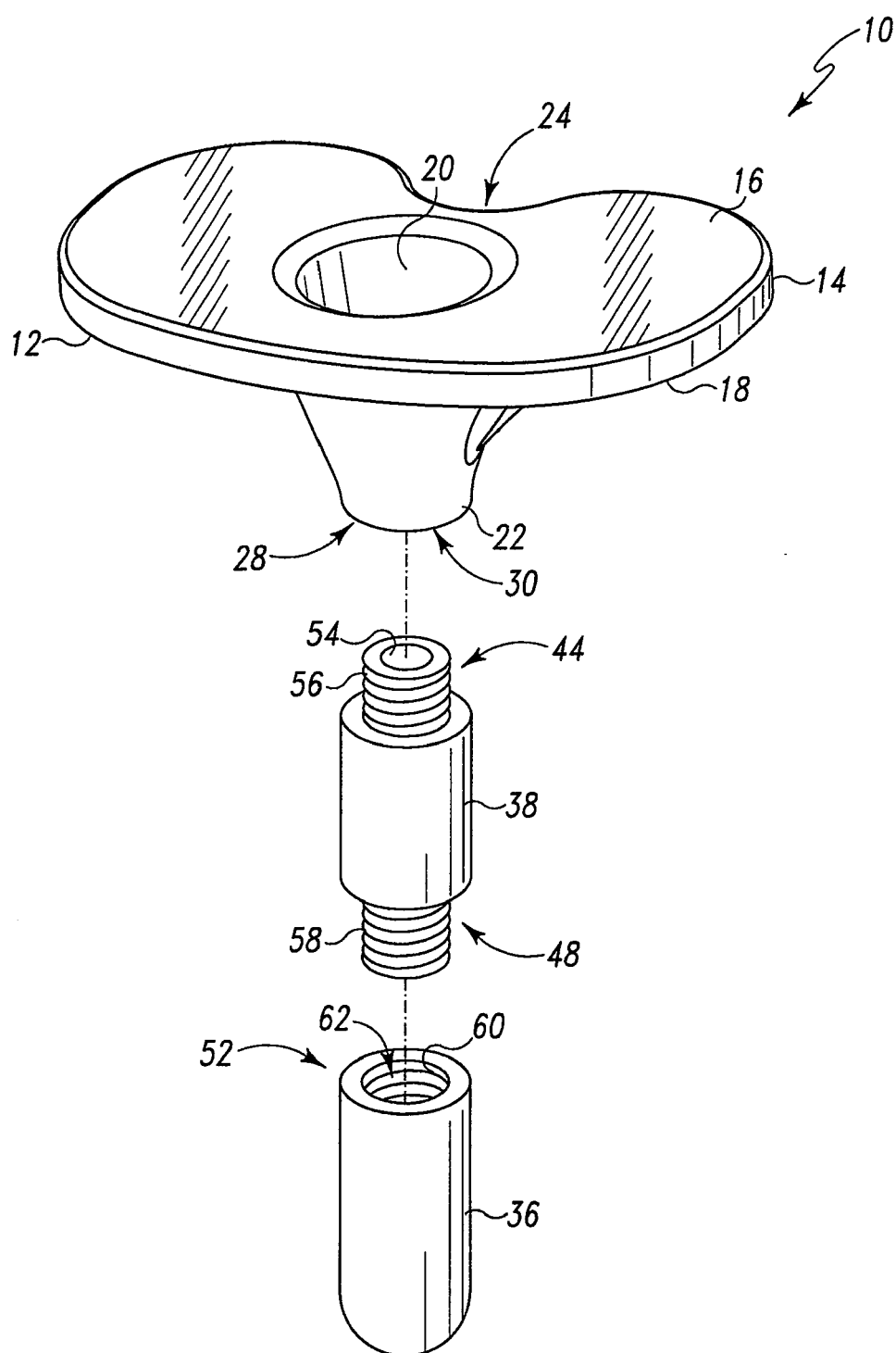


Fig. 2

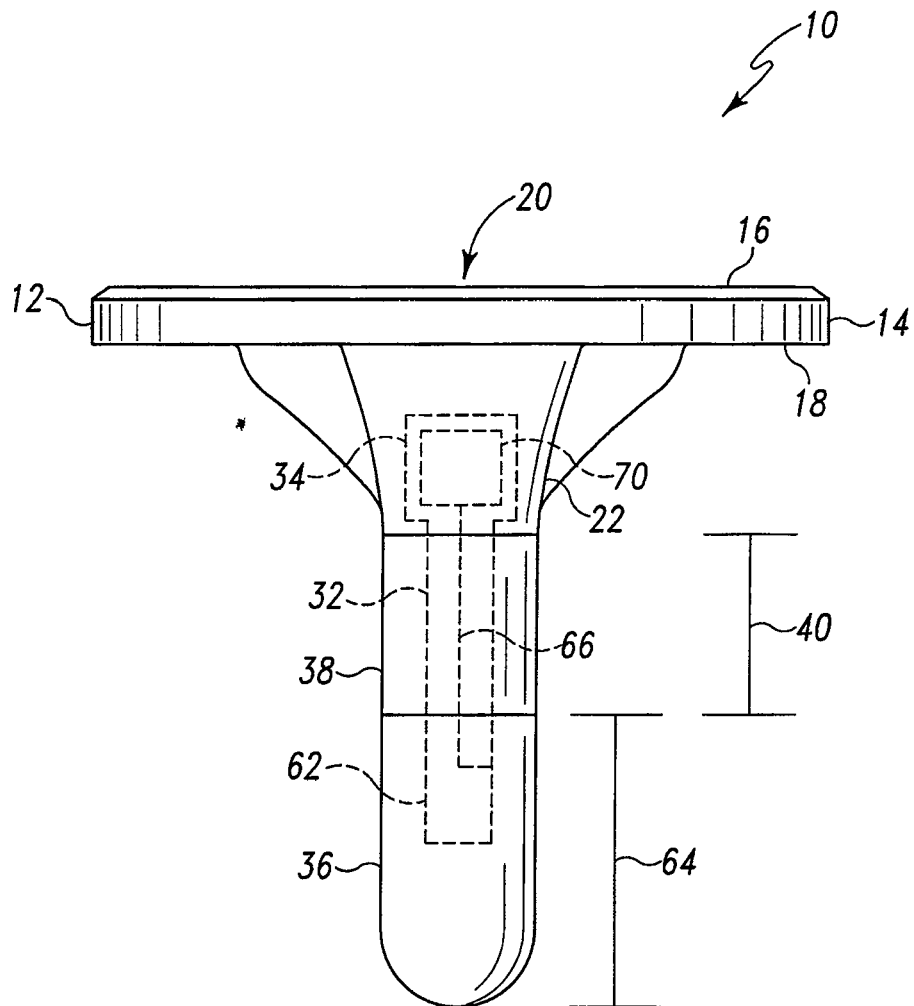


Fig. 3

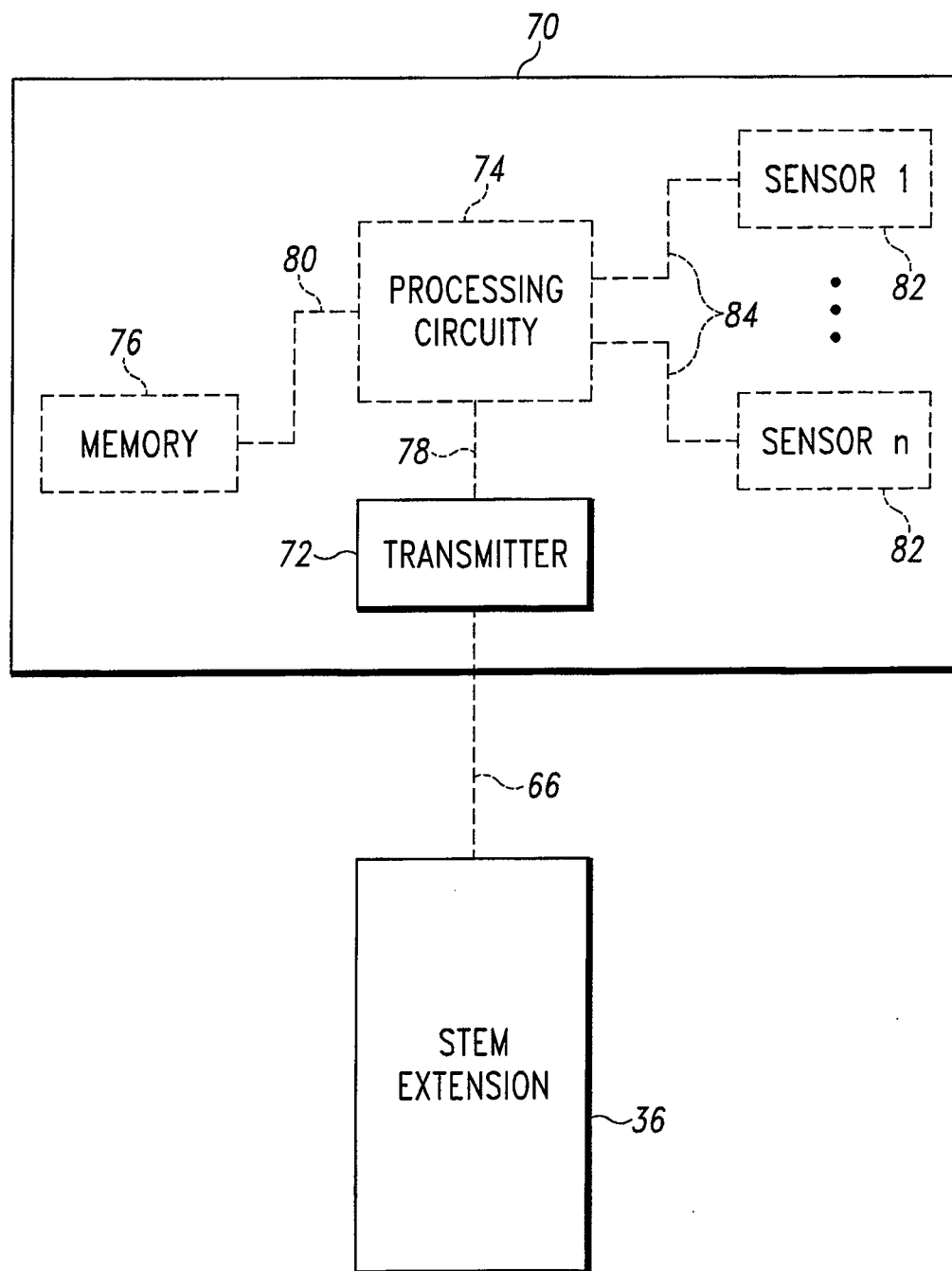


Fig. 4

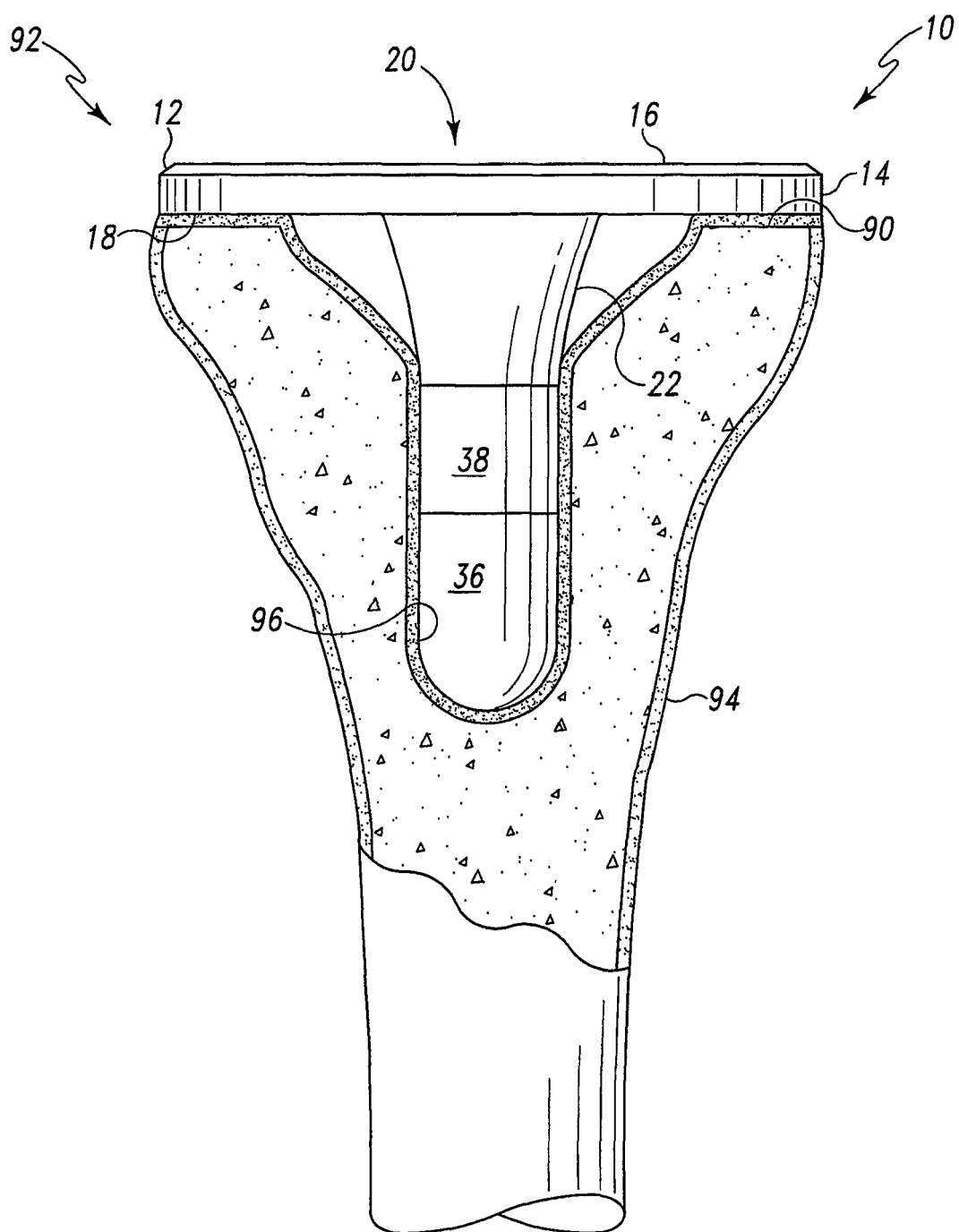


Fig. 5

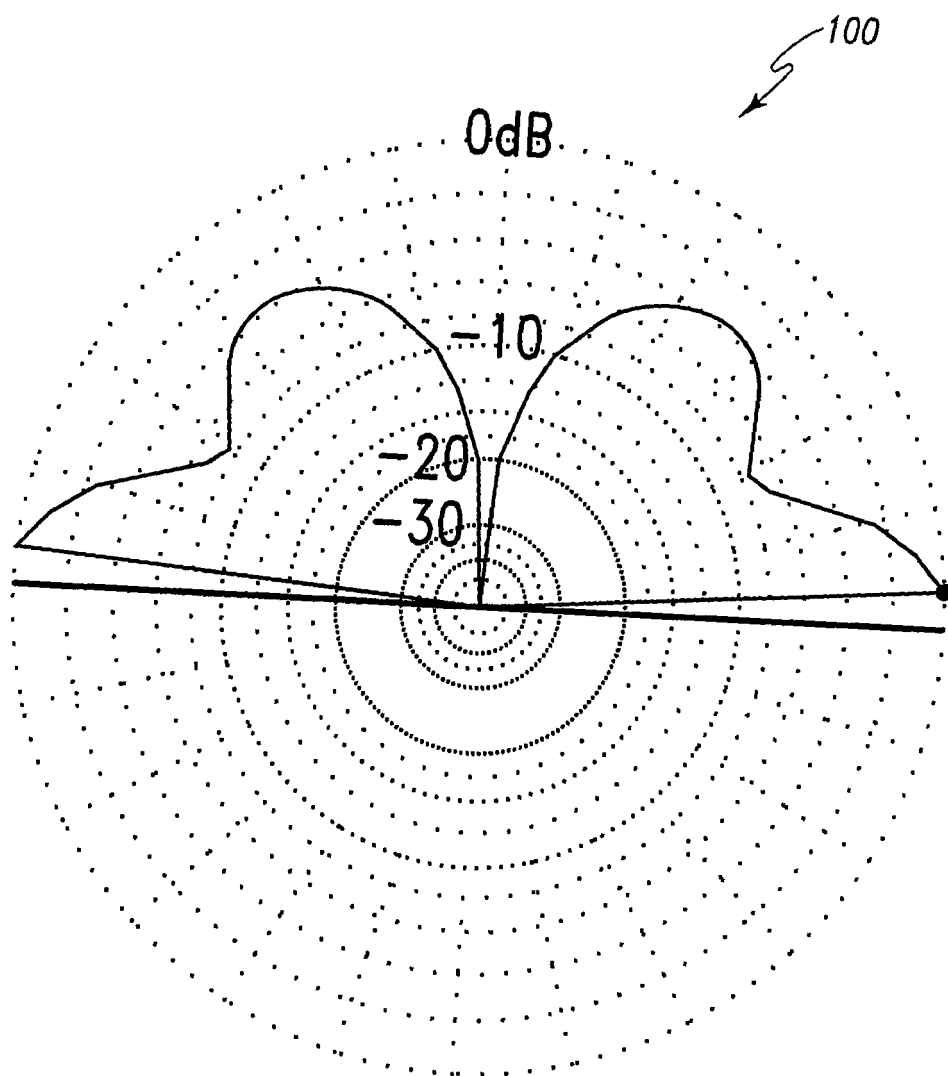


Fig. 6

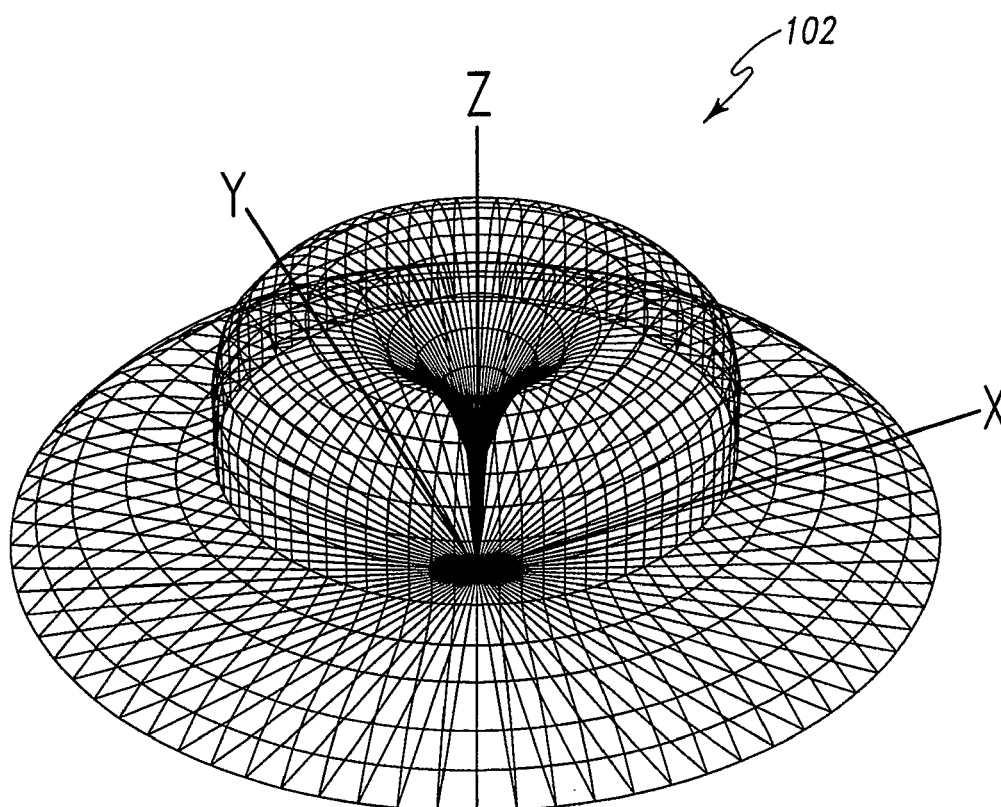


Fig. 7



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 15 8868

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 08 15 8868

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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